

Message Text

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72

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 H-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 /078 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

7/31/73 20448

APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

S/PRS - MR. BRAY (INFO)

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

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R 312009Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS STATE 150310

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 31,
1973:

QUOTE: Q. DO YOU KNOW IF AMBASSADOR TASCA COMMUNICATED IN
ANY WAY, OR THROUGH ANY OTHER INTERMEDIARY, IN CONTACTING
AN OPPOSITION LEADER AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS STATE-
MENT VERY CRITICAL OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE
ELECTION OR BEFORE THE PLEBISCITE?

A. NO, I CAN'T HELP YOU.

Q. YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER HE DID OR NOT?

A. WELL, ALL I'M AWARE, OR WHAT I AM AWARE OF IS SIMPLY
WHAT CHARLIE SAID HERE YESTERDAY. BEYOND THAT, I HAVE NO
FURTHER INFORMATION.

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Q. CHARLIE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO SUCH TELEPHONE CALL,

MEANING THE CALL REPORTED IN THE POST -- WHAT'S HIS NAME, KANNELOPOULOS -- NO SUCH TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE EMBASSY. AS I REMEMBER HIS WORDS, HE DIDN'T -- IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN EVASION BECAUSE TASCA CALLED OR IT COULD JUST HAVE BEEN HIS WAY OF SAYING IT, OR TASCA COULD HAVE GONE OVER AND TALKED TO THE MAN. BUT I WONDERED IF YOU COULD CLEAR IT UP FOR US IN ANY WAY, IF NOT NOW AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

A. WELL, YESTERDAY, CHARLIE PROVIDED YOU WITH A REPORT OF WHAT THE EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID ON THIS MATTER. AND HE SPECIFICALLY SAID, "AS TO THE QUESTION OF A RECENT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND MR. KANELLOPOULOS, THE EMBASSY HAS ALREADY STATED OVER THE WEEKEND THAT THERE WAS NO SUCH CONTACT."

Q. WELL, DOES THAT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT TASCA HAD ONE OF HIS AIDES GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MAN AND CONVEY TO HIM CONGRATULATIONS ON HIS STATEMENT?

A. WELL, I HAVE TO READ IT AS IT IS WRITTEN HERE, WHICH IS THAT THERE IS A DENIAL OF ANY RECENT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND MR. KANELLOPOULOS.

Q. ANY COMMUNICATION OR ANY TELEPHONE CALL -- WHAT DOES THE SPOKESMAN SAY? "ANY SUCH CALL", DIDN'T HE?

A. COMMUNICATION. END QUOTE. ROGERS

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NNN

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